

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claims 1, 10, 13 and 19 have been amended. Claims 3-9, 14-18 and 24-30 have been canceled. No claims have been added. Thus, claims 1, 2, 10-13 and 19-23 are pending.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 3-8, 11-17, 21-25 and 27-30 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,430,706 issued to Sand (*Sand*). Claims 3-8, 14-17, 25 and 27-30 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejection of claims 3-8, 14-17, 25 and 27-30 is moot.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 9, which has been canceled. Claim 13 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 18, which has been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 13 are in condition for allowance. Claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 1. Claims 21-23 depend from claim 13. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicants submit that claims 11, 12 and 21-23 are also in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2 and 26 were rejected as being unpatentable over *Sand*. Claim 1 depends from claim 1, which has been amended to include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 2 is in condition for allowance. Claim 26 has been canceled.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

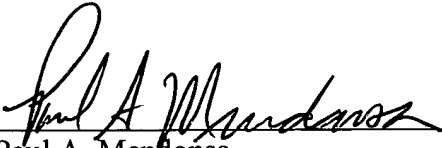
Claims 9, 10 and 18-20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. Claim 9 has been canceled and the allowable subject matter has been incorporated into claim 1.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1, 2, 10-13 and 19-23 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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